



SEASON 25 CUTTINGS SUPPLEMENT TO

Edited and designed by GORDON RIDOUT.

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INTERNATIONAL



ELECTROMATIX

No. 3

## Doc fails time test

NICE idea, celebrating Doctor Who's silver jubilee by whisking him back to the year when he first fell to earth.

Unfortunately, Remembrance Of The Daleks brings back other memories of 1963...before the signature tune was given a disco mix, and the Doctor turned into a cross between an over-grown Boy Scout and an alternative comedian.

Sylvester is simply not the real McCoy. Still, it's good to hear again the cry "Exterminate! Exterminate!" from those petulant pepper-pots. They've now got the hang of stairs, which defeated the Daleks of old.

Somewhere on his journey through time and space, the Doctor has also managed to lose Bonnie Langford.

So let's be grateful for small mercies.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

LONDON EVENING STANDARD

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** Remembrance of the Daleks\*. Part two (of four) in the Timelord's silver jubilee series, which is making a pilgrimage back to 1983; the Doctor is once again under threat from the his most resilient enemy, currently divided into two competing factions, though any resemblance between Dalek policies and recent events in Blackpool are probably coincidental.

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** Remembrance of the Daleks\*. Part three (of four) in an adventure which finds the Doctor in 1963 London and once again pitting his wits against the Daleks. With Sylvester McCoy in the title role and Sophie Aldred as Ace, another of those sparky girl assistants that the Doctor seems to favour.

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** Remembrance of the Daleks\*. Can the Doctor and Ace stop Shoreditch from becoming a major Dalek commuter terminus?

# LOLITA TAKES ON THE DALEKS



## AN 'ACE' IN THE HOLE

No leotards for Sophie Aldred... "Ace is someone kids can look up to", she says

## STEERING CLEAR OF A DISASTER

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO (S).** Remembrance of the Daleks. Starring Sylvester McCoy as The Doctor. It's London, 25 years ago, and The Doctor has returned to conclude some unfinished business. However, some old acquaintances are waiting for him. With Sophie Aldred as Ace.

**7.35 DR WHO (S).** The Doctor hopes the military forces will help him deal with the rival Dalek factions, but Ace is already in danger and so is the Hand of Omega. Sylvester McCoy plays the Doctor.

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** A shuttle craft full of Daleks has landed in a London school playground. Can the Doctor stop the invasion? And who will control the Hand of Omega?

**T**HE Daleks have a new enemy—and she looks just sweet 16.

Dr Who's metal monsters are back on TV tonight, facing up to a pretty little blonde English girl.

She is Sophie Aldred who plays Ace, the Doctor's 27th female companion.

The Daleks don't scare. 25-year-old Sophie—but her looks do.

"In Dr Who I'm supposed to be 16, but in real life people think that's how old I am, and that causes me no end of problems," says Sophie, who can't get served in pubs, is offered half price travel on trains, and boyfriends feel like "baby snatchers."

### Nuisance

"Sometimes I don't know whether to laugh or cry. It's good for a woman to look young, but it can also be a nuisance," she says.

"In the showbusiness world, people have tried to rip me off, because I look just like a kid."

The new Doctor series—the 25th starts where it all began, back in 1963.

Sophie says: "I can remember as a child hiding behind the settee frightened to death of the Daleks and the Cyber Men."

Now she joins the latest Doctor, played by Sylvester McCoy, as the saga starts once again.

"I was chosen for the part

## Who's new girl goes a bomb



**NEW DOCTOR** ... Sylvester McCoy takes over

of Ace just because I look so young," says Sophie who has a nice line in bomb-making and destruction as the Dr's pretty little tough new assistant.

But Sophie also had a bizarre life before being chosen to star in Dr Who.

She braved nine months on the Manchester workingmen's club circuit before crowds of leering old blokes, playing a 1950s pop singer.

"I might look like a child, but those crowds of unruly blokes really hardened me to the world," says Sophie, "so I'm no kid inside this child's body."

Rather than the leotarded, pouting companions of the past, Sophie's character is designed to appeal to youngsters.

### Character

"Ace is someone that today's kids can look up to. She's a proper modern-day girl and I've based her on many young teenagers I know."

"She wears Doc Martens, ripped jeans and Beastie Boys jackets, so she's the sort of young girl that a new generation of Dr Who viewers will understand."

Once again the Dr is up against Coronation Street in the ratings but this time, for the silver jubilee series, the Beeb has forked out a staggering £1.5 million on the series, with a host of big name stars.

**MICHAEL BURKE**



**SIMON WILLIAMS**  
Doctor in the past



**PAMELA SALEM**  
Fighting Daleks



**PAMELA SALEM**  
Who's expert

**THE STAR**

# Sophie, you're an Ace



WHO'S WHO OF STARDOM: Zany Sylvester McCoy with Sophie

ENGLISH actress Sophie Aldred has become an overnight sensation in the United States, thanks to Dr Who.

The 25-year-old who plays Sylvester McCoy's new tomboy assistant Ace is being bombarded with invitations to attend conventions of fans in America.

"I find the whole thing overwhelming," she says. "It's like suddenly becoming a movie star."

She has already attended several British conventions and next month jets off to New York, where Dr Who enthusiasts tune in six nights a week.

"I tend to worry about

## DOCTOR WHO (BBC1, 7.55pm)

these slightly obsessive people," she says. "Most of them are in their thirties. They ask the most obscure questions. You needed a PhD in Dr Who to answer them all."

Sophie's big break came at the end of last year's series when she was chosen to take over from sugary Bonnie Langford.

Until then, youngsters knew her as presenter of the BBC children's programme *Corners*.

After doing just three episodes of Doctor Who she was bombarded with letters from girls wanting to know where she got her clothes and badges.

"The boys write me letters about their problems with girls," says Sophie. "I've become a sort of teenage agony aunt."

She and the Doctor are off on their time travels again tonight, battling again with the Daleks.

"I was so scared of them as a child," says Sophie. "When I first heard one speak in rehearsals, a chill ran up my spine." The spell was broken, however, when the cast disappeared for a tea break.

"There was a Dalek standing there all alone," she says. "Then suddenly a little voice from inside let me out. The poor man had been left trapped inside the thing."

PAM FRANCIS

## 7.35 DR WHO (S)

The classic sci-fi series notches up 25 years. It's exterminate or be exterminated for the Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) as he is transported back to the Dalek days of 1963 with feisty teenage companion Ace (Sophie Aldred).

# Mirror TV

## Look Who is here!

**T**IMELESS Space-hopper Doctor Who gets yet another new girl sidekick tonight.

She's all-action girl Ace, played by Sophie Aldred complete with Doc Marten boots and a jacket plastered with badges. Hopefully Sophie is the card the Beeb say they have up their sleeve.

She is the Time Lord's 28th companion and bosses hope that she'll bring a taste of 1988 to the show which returns such guest stars as Pamela Salem, Simon Williams, Peggy Mount, T.P. McKenna and Jessica Martin.

### Tougher

It's all a far cry from our hero's former female sidekick, the squeamish screaming Melanie, played by Bonnie Langford.

Sophie says: "I've been told that on no account am I allowed to scream. Ace is no damsel in distress. She is much tougher than Me-

by **TONY PURNELL**

lanie and doesn't scare easily."

Among the enemies she'll face will be the Daleks — back by popular demand.

"But they won't bother Ace who carries around her own special explosives called Nitro-9 in deodorant cans!"

● **DOCTOR WHO**, BBC-1, 7.35pm.

**LIFT OFF:** Doctor Who gets to grips with his Ace new girl assistant.



**DON'T MISS**

☆ **DOCTOR WHO** (BBC1, Wed, 7.35pm): Daleks are back as the Doctor timeslips into his 25th year on the screen.

### 7.35 DOCTOR WHO.

Time does not weary him and here comes the good doctor for his 25th anniversary season. Fittingly, the occasion is marked by another meeting with his greatest foes, The Daleks, who may look like dustbins on wheels but have kept generations of children watching from behind the sofa. (TST)

## Look Who's here

**WELCOME** back Daleks! On Wednesday they knew what to do with Sylvester McCoy's lisping Dr Who.

**EX-TER-MIN—ATE** him!

Simon Williams was also there as an Army bod. So, too, was Joanne from the Albert Square Wine bar

What with Dr Legg (Leonard Fenton) moonlighting as the coroner in the Gibraltar Trial on Four on Sunday, I wonder if the *EastEnders* cast-trimming has already begun?



**SOPHIE:** cheeky

## The fare Sophie

☆ **LOVELY** Sophie Aldred, who plays Time Lord Dr. Who's new assistant Ace, knows how to cash in on her youthful looks. Although Sophie is really 26, she looks like a 16-year-old — and that has its advantages. It means ticket sellers charge her the child's fare when she goes by train. "I'm too embarrassed to complain, and anyway it's their fault not mine," says cheeky Sophie, who teams up with the good Doctor again tonight in **DOCTOR WHO, REMEMBRANCE OF THE DALEKS** (BBC 1, 7.35 p.m.).



## Express Television

LAST NIGHT'S VIEW

# Sorry Doc, you're not the real McCoy



Welcome... a Dalek

EVER since Tom Baker packed up his woolly scarf and sailed off into the ether, Dr Who just hasn't been the same for me.

He was the last of the real Doctors, who actually looked as if they knew what they were talking about.

And I write this with all the authority of someone who once had a Patrick Troughton pin-up on the wall!

Since those golden days when Cybermen knew their place, the Doctor

By ANTONIA SWINSON

has become sillier and sillier with more and more gimmicks.

And so, unsurprisingly, in the new series, up popped a very nice actor, Sylvester McCoy, with a red-handled umbrella for a prop, who looked as if he didn't have as much as a GCSE in cookery.

Still, you could not fault Ben Aaronovitch's script, which was fast and watchable, because it was so familiar.

enough, no, Sylvester McCoy is the latest Doctor to be grabbed by the Daleks.

Which explains why his eyes are watering. But great as it is to see our little tin friends from bygone years, I can't help feeling the

Daleks' day is over. Compared with today's tellingly special effects, Dusty Bins with knobs on are rather dull.

Maybe the Doctor could tackle Jeremy Weasel after all.

Though whether he could get his mouth around a long word like "exterminate" is doubtful.

I have always thought the best Dr Who stories have been set on earth—all those creaky in-studio outer-space sets got so tedious after a while—and reintroducing the Daleks was a stroke of humanoid genius.

It is 1963. Shoreline. The Daleks have landed, and so, incidentally, has the Doctor with his latest assistant Ace (Sophie Aldred), a plump little girl, with a French plait and a ghetto blaster.

The Daleks, typically, are going round exterminating people, and the army have been called in to cope. Enter Simon Williams, looking as if he's just stepped out of Upstairs Downstairs, to direct the troops.

Then comes that, par-ticular voice, part of the very fabric of my childhood: "Exterminate, exterminate" that made the hair stand up on the back of my neck.

Dr Who is a glorious sci-fi pantomime, a British institution which should be around for another 25 Earth years at the very least.



In trouble: Sylvester and Sophie

## Bin those Daleks!

★IT'S a slimy blob and, says Dr Who, its intention is "to conquer and enslave as much of the universe as it can get its grubby little" protruberances on.

Jeremy Beadle? Oddly

# Mirror

Ace has  
got it  
taped

★ **MUSIC** goes everywhere with Ace, Dr Who's latest sidekick. Because of her time trips aboard the Tardis, Ace played by Sophie Aldred — is a hopper taking her ghetto-blasters and tapes with her.

Sophie, 26, beat 100 contenders for the role of 16-year-old Ace. Says producer John Nathan Turner: "We were surprised when we learned Sophie's age."

"Unlike some of Dr Who's earlier assistants, she's not a screamer who runs from problems. She has a go — in fact, she's ace."

● **DOCTOR WHO** (BBC-1, 7.35pm)



**SHEILA HANCOCK**  
7.35pm

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** With the Daleks safely out of the way for the moment, the Doctor and Ace visit a planet that seems fun. But soon they're facing a murderous robot called Kandy Man and a nasty police force called the Happiness Patrol. Guest stars: Sheila Hancock, Ronald Fraser, Georgina Hale. (TST)



**GEORGINA HALE**  
7.35pm

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO.** Strange that not long ago the Beeb were about to pension off the good doctor. Now, after a welcome change of mind, he's still with us, going as strongly as ever. And the Beeb are keeping faith by packing the shows with fine guest stars like Georgina Hale, Sheila Hancock and Ronald Fraser in this current story. Best of all at the moment, though, is the Allsorts Man — so much sweeter than a Dalek. (TST)



**SYLVESTER MCCOY**  
Time traveller

## Sheila's on patrol

★ **ACTRESS** Sheila Hancock has a brief respite from her domestic problems tonight when she plays a member of an evil militia called the HAPPINESS Patrol!

Her role in **DOCTOR WHO** (BBC1 7.35 p.m.) sees her up against the time-traveller (Sylvester McCoy) and his assistant Ace (Sophie Aldred).

But life is far from happy for Sheila these days.

The 55-year-old actress is still reeling from the break up of her 15-year marriage to actor John Thaw.

And recently she collapsed on stage during a performance of a play in Madrid.

# Still putting on the kitsch

**BBC 1  
Dr Who 25th  
Anniversary**

**FIRST.** A confession. The last time I watched Dr. Who, it was in black and white and I was in short trousers.

So what's changed in 25 years? Dr. Who himself, obviously, having gone through seven incarnations. Other than that, not a lot.

Despite being one of the Beeb's more successful exports (selling to 60 different countries) it still looks cheap and

amateurish. Worse than that, it looks tired and I found myself less than engaged by Sylvester McCoy's half-hearted Doctor.

Most of the action seemed to be taking place in an aircraft hangar, with echoey acoustics to match. The robotic Cybermen, who do voice-overs for larger commercials when they're not pursuing Dr. Who, still manage to miss everyone when they take aim with their deadly laser guns, while the Doctor's current sidekick, Ace (Sophie Aldred, who should really do something about her speaking voice) scores a bull's eye every time with her catapult.

There was some fun to be had in the time-warp confrontation between a present-day brassy American dame, flaunting her riches, and a 16th century English couple, coming out with lines like "We needs must walk, we have no carriage."

Apparently they hold Dr. Who conventions in America, where its following is even keener and more loyal than here. The main reason, I'm told, is its kitsch value—all those crummy sets and effects, the lack of technical wizardry. I doubt if they'll be disappointed by the latest crop.

**Nick Smurthwaite**



**FOES:** Dr Who and Ace with the Cybermen



**Doctor Who goes silver: Page 17**

Wednesday, November 23 1988

# PO

## McWHO'S REALLY COY

**DURING** 25 years of battling against intergalactic evil, Dr Who has built up a hard-core following of super-devoted fans. And they scare him rigid.

Sylvester McCoy, the seventh actor to play the mysterious time traveller, dreads Who addicts discovering where he lives. "If I get fan letters delivered to my home, I mark them 'Not known'," he says.

Tonight's episode, Silver Nemesis, marks the Time Lord's 25th anniversary. While McCoy is happy playing the Doctor, accompanied by current sidekick Ace, when he goes out he wears a personal stereo to stop fans talking to him.

"The important thing is to avoid eye contact," he says. "Once I was

**DR WHO (BBC1 7.35pm)**

on a plane and the person next to me asked why I wasn't in my Tardis," he says. "My stereo wasn't working but I made out it was."

At Doctor Who conventions McCoy refuses to pretend he really is the Doctor. "I go as an actor," he says. But people still ask questions such as, "What was your motivation when you were in the fifth persona?"

Tonight's anniversary adventure, the first of a three-part story, finds the British monarchy threatened by black magic, a living statue and a regiment of legendary Who villains, the Cybermen.

**ANNE CABORN**

**11.00 News; Weather; OPEN AIR: 25 years of Doctor Who**

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO: Enemies from 1638 and 1988 gang up against the Doctor and assistant Ace.**





SOPHIE ALDRED as Ace and SYLVESTER MCCOY as the Doctor with the sure shot Cybermen.

Price: 20p ISSUE No 12

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# REAL GHOST OF 'DOCTOR' MCCOY

THE latest Doctor Who, Sylvester McCoy, has to cope with all sorts of bizarre events, but nothing so weird as being touched by a ghost.

McCoy has twice been tapped on the shoulder by an invisible spirit - and he dreads that it might happen again.

## Hand

"It was very unnerving," admits the diminutive actor.

"The first time it happened I was on stage in Coventry and thought someone was messing around. When I turned

By ALISON PEACHEY

round, there was nobody there. "I could hardly believe it when it happened again - a firm hand on my shoulder.

"I didn't know whether it was trying to make me hold back or saying well done. It must definitely be the ghost of an actor or actress because each time it happened on stage.

"If it happens a third time, I'm just not sure how I'll react."

Doctor Who (BBC 1, 7.35 pm) celebrates his 25th birthday with the start tonight of a special three-part story co-starring Sophie Aldred, set in Tudor times, and featuring his old foes the Cybermen



WHO'S WHO: McCoy, co-star Sophie and Dalek

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO** Exactly 25 years ago tonight the first Doctor Who adventure hit our screens and the world's longest running science fiction series celebrates its silver anniversary with a new adventure.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## DOC!

### He's 25 today

**ZANY** time traveller Doctor Who zaps into a new era today.

It's exactly 25 years ago since the first wacky Time Lord—played by the late William Hartnell—stunned the nation by appearing out of thin air in his Tardis police telephone box.

That landing, in a London junk yard, launched what has become the world's longest running and most successful science fiction series.

Tonight the latest **DOCTOR WHO** (BBC1, 7.35 p.m.) celebrates with a three-part adventure called *Silver Nemesis*, with Sylvester McCoy in the title role.

The sinister Cybermen provide the foe when the Doctor and his sidekick, Ace, played by Sophie Aldred, sneak into the grounds of "Windsor Castle." They even bump into "Her Majesty" walking a pack of Corgis.

The scene—featuring Royal lookalike Jeanette Charles—was shot at Arundel Castle in Sussex, because filming was banned at Windsor.

#### WHO

THERE have been SEVEN Time Lords—William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker and now Sylvester McCoy.

**SPOT**

#### Adventure

"It's a shame, but we weren't allowed in Windsor and the real Queen playing the part was out of the question," says producer John Nathan-Turner.

"But the adventure has something for everyone and we hope this is another of many more birthdays for the Doctor. The series is a worldwide institution and we are proud of it."

Madeup McCoy, 45, is proud to be the seventh actor to play the Doctor.

"I feel privileged to be the man in the show. It's a fantastic programme and should never die," he says.

But the high profile role of Doctor Who has created a few problems in McCoy's private life.

"The most usual comment is on the Tube or bus when people nudge me and laugh: 'Where's your Tardis—broken down?'," laughs McCoy.

#### WHO

NEARLY 150 stars have made special guest appearances including The Beatles, John Cleese and Dirty Den actor Leslie Grantham who was exterminated by a Dalek.

**SPOT**

### Happy returns

● Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred, who plays sidekick, Ace, cut a Tardis cake to celebrate Doctor Who's 25th anniversary.

**7.35 DOCTOR WHO:** *Silver Nemesis*. Starring Sylvester McCoy. This 25th anniversary adventure finds the Doctor and his assistant Ace fighting enemies from both 1638 and 1968 to gain control of the Silver Nemesis. With Sophie Aldred.

Alan Cohen



REVIEWS LAST WEEK'S TELEVISION

# Murdered by the magic of Dr Who

WHEN an enterprise has involved as much money, talent, effort and time as BBC1's new Sunday serial *The Chronicles of Narnia*, who shall we blame as we watch it falling so signally? Nobody. The question in this case is *what* should we blame? Because what is killing this adaptation of C.S. Lewis's magical allegory is television itself. Television is a post-magical phenomenon and, perhaps unfortunately, it is more magical than magic. Worse, it is counter-magical.

There was a time when a tale of four kids walking into a wardrobe and finding it contained another world and another time would have caught the infant imagination and made it hop.

But I fear, sadly, that those days are long gone.

## Ancient and modern

The young have seen it all, now. New tricks is what they want, and C.S. Lewis is an old dog. An old dog, moreover, in an old hat. Because that is exactly what fauns and castles and talking animals are.

How can they compete with a contemporary, box-bred fairy story like *Dr Who*? Not only is the doctor a modern mega-Merlin, smarter than a wardrobeful of Nobel laureates and capable of vaulting Einstein's theory across limitless time and space, but the scrapes into which he gets himself are scrapes of the imminent now. They could just happen, and the fringe of believability is where magic is most potent. If you can believe a wizard can stop time in a place that has not yet happened, the possibilities are literally endless.

To paraphrase the message of

another engaging modern fantasy, *The Six Million Dollar Man*: 'We can rebuild fairy-tale — we have the technology!'

Take the latest *Who* story, *Nemesis* which kicked off last Wednesday on BBC1. How simultaneously ancient and modern (which is to say magical and relevant) it was.

Switching between an evil necromancer's bolt-hole in 1688 and an evil Nazi's bunker in 1988, the plot embraces not only the quasi-scientific hoo-ha of intergalactic ironmongery, time theory, cybernauts and gloriously new weaponry.

It also has the traditional paraphernalia of ancient magicians and wicked Jacobean plotters and mystic totems, with the launching of the Fourth Reich thrown in.

What's up, Doc? Everything, and a rafting good everything, too.

It also has the central strength. It has enjoyed for a quarter of a century, *Dr Who* himself. Here is that familiar English figure, the heroic eccentric, rescued from the suspicion of the English have of cleverness by an endearing, and thus humanising, barminess.

An hour later, across at ITV, there he was again. As hats — though not perhaps wigs — were thrown joyously in the thankful air, *Rumpole Of The Law* was back in the sleazy arena of the law. And, this time, in the even sleazier area of gutter journalism, with that deliciously convoluted tale of conspiracy to corrupt the press for robbing the successful families of say two backs since time immemorial.

The plan is ever thus: one back over the third bottle, across to label the other back, the great idea being

that they will share the huge ensuing damages. In life, of course, they sober up and realise that what they will be sharing is a small ensuing cell.

Hilda Rumpole was an addicted fan of one of the conspirators. Claude Erskine-Brown's marriage was saved in mid-falter — simultaneously rescuing Rumpole's own — by a deal done with the other conspirator.

The failure of the conspiracy itself frustrated the conspiracy of the cabal of venal lawyers which mirrored it.

What richness John Mortimer offers, above and beyond the line of a scriptwriter's duty, and what unflagging entertainment

In a word, magic



TIMELESS: McCoy

# TWADDLE'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

IF we can't have the Daleks, the Cybermen will do.

My second-favourite villains in the 25-year history of *Doctor Who* arrived, hissing and creaking, in a space ship which touched down on the Windsor

Silver Nemesis is the usual limpet-like twaddle. A large rock bum falls to earth with a screaming Kestrel embedded inside. An Elizabethan lady is whisked into the 1980s.

And Anton Driffling, foaming away at the mouth as only he knows how, is plotting the triumph of the Fourth Reich.

'This may qualify as the worst thing I've done since life crawled out of the sea', squeaked Sybil McCoy, as the dippy Doctor.

I think he'd just signed a contract for another

Dr Who (BBC1, 7.35-8 pm) has an above-average reputation to mark its Silver Jubilee.

7.40 DR WHO. Ace and the doctor are trapped in the Psychic Circus and having a terrible time with the meat boring being within 3,000,000 light years (well, apart from the one we all know, that is).

